

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The above amendments are responsive to the Examiner's remarks made in the Advisory Action issued July 28, 2008.

The claims are 2, 3, 5, and 8-19. Claim 2 is currently amended. New claim 19 is added.

The phrase "and optionally a removable protection film covering the surface of said laminate, said surface being on the other side of removable support film" was added to claim 2 in the amendment filed June 24, 2008. The Examiner indicated in the Advisory Action issued July 28, 2008 that this feature will not receive patentable weight because the feature is specified as optional. Accordingly, in the present Amendment, Applicants deleted this feature from claim 2, and add new claim 19 which includes it without the "optional" recitation.

No new matter is added.

Claims 2, 12 and 14-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Iwasaki (US 2003/0087179).

Claims 1, 4, and 6-7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by Kosaka et al. (US 6,207,268) in view of Iwasaki.

Claim 5 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Iwasaki in view of Oshio et al. (US 2002/0163108).

Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka et al. (US 6,039,622) in view of Saegusa (US 6,825,140).

Claims 3 and 9-11 (and apparently claims 13-17) stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Kosaka et al. in view of Saegusa and further in view of Oshio.

Applicants respectfully traverse each of these rejections for the reasons set forth in the reply filed June 24, 2008, and for the reasons given below.

As discussed in the reply filed June 24, 2008, it may appear to those unskilled in the art that the laminate described in claim 2 is a partial laminate of the multiple layer laminate disclosed by Iwasaki. However, it is neither practical nor realistic to form a two layer laminate consisting of a photo sensitive unbaked spacer material layer (34), and an intermediate

layer (35). This is especially true considering that the purpose of the intermediate layer (35) in Iwasaki et al. is to improve adhesion with an alkali-soluble thermoplastic layer (36).

In addition, a partial laminate derived from Iwasaki et al. could only be made if it included the alkali-soluble thermoplastic layer (36), in addition to the photosensitive unbaked spacer material layer (34), and the intermediate layer (35).

Accordingly, the laminate of claim 2, as currently amended, which does not include an alkali-soluble thermoplastic layer (36), is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting the prosecution, please contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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